

to give it through consideration, and report next year.

Special Recommendations:

1. We recommend that the General Assembly refer the proposition of D. H. Ralston and H. Waddell Pratt to the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence, to be studied by them and to be reported on to the next meeting of the Assembly.

2. We recommend that the General Assembly request the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence to frame a clear-cut definition of the Assembly's plan to be used as a test in determining what churches have adopted this plan, and what have not.

4. Statistical Summary of Systematic Beneficence as Reported by the Presbyteries:

Contributions.	
Foreign Missions	\$ 519,532
Assembly's Home Missions....	116,805
Synod's Home Missions.....	66,805
Presbytery's Home Missions	199,183
Congregational Home Missions	171,892
Christian Education and Min.	
Relief	93,541
Sunday-school Extension and	
Publication	36,022
Schools and Colleges.....	138,611
Bible Cause	8,915
Orphans' Homes	135,407
Miscellaneous Benevolences ..	127,845
Total	\$1,614,558

All of which is respectfully submitted.
A. D. P. Gilmour, Chairman.

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MINISTERIAL RELIEF.

Your Standing Committee on Christian Education and Ministerial Relief respectfully submit the following report.

These papers have come into our possession and have had careful consideration. The minutes of the Executive Committee, the Annual Report of that committee, the report of the Mountain Retreat Association, and Overtures 19, 20, 21, 22 and 48, and the annual report of the Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers.

The Executive Committee is to be commended for the manner in which the Minutes are kept, and for the careful and elaborate Annual Report. From the latter we gather the following interesting and instructive facts:

(1) Our Church is still sorely in need of more ministers adequately trained.

(2) That there were 23 candidates for the ministry under care of Presbyteries last March, 53 more than in the preceding year, 58 of them were in the third year classes in theological seminaries. Ten of the Presbyteries reported no candidates.

(3) The Relief Fund extended its gracious, but still very limited, helpfulness to 240 homes, nine more than last year.

(4) The Student Loan Fund, which now amounts to \$20,593.11, has made it possible during the year for 72 young people to secure a higher education.

(5) That the Committee's receipts for all purposes were \$117,603.50, an increase of \$8,693.05 over last year.

We recommend:

First. That the Assembly, hearing with pleasure of the continued prosperity of the Mountain Retreat Association, express its gratification that generous friends have transferred a majority of the common stock of this association to a board under a declaration of trust, which forever guarantees Church control of this association, without direct membership. This gift represents a controlling interest in a property worth at least \$200,000.00. This will undoubtedly enable this enterprise to become more and more a source of vitality and strength for the life and work of our Church.

Second. That the Assembly call upon our people to remember the Student Loan Fund to the end that it may be rapidly increased, so that more and more of our young men and women may be able to enjoy an education supplied by our own institutions of higher learning.

Third. That the Assembly, in harmony with the report of the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence, fix the sum of \$150,000.00 as the minimum to be secured for the work of this Executive Committee for 1917 and 1918, but that because of the special effort needed this year to secure exceptional gifts for the endowment fund, the third Sunday in September be set aside for this year only, for a

special appeal to this cause, outside of the regular budget on the part of this Executive Committee.

Fourth. That the Revs. W. Y. Davis, J. M. Van der Meulen, D. D., and Messrs. John Stites, B. H. Young and C. F. Huhlein be elected members of the Executive Committee for a period of three years:

Fifth. That the following be appointed members of the Permanent Advisory Committee for Education, for a period of one year: H. H. Sweets, chairman; E. W. Smith, alternate.

Principals: H. W. Dubose, J. P. Robertson, C. C. Carson, L. Ross Lynn; alternates: R. R. McCaslin, John Van Lear, L. R. Walker, J. G. Venable.

For the term of two years:
Principals—J. S. Lyons, W. McV. Alexander, M. E. Melvin, D. B. Gage, D. P. McGeachy; alternates—E. L. Hill, D. F. Wilkinson, T. W. Raymond, J. J. Rice, H. B. Moore.

For the term of three years:
Principals—W. B. Morrison, W. J. Martin, S. C. Byrd, William Dinwiddie, T. S. Clyce, H. Tucker, Graham; alternates—J. M. Clarke, C. G. Vardell, D. M. Douglass, J. R. Dobyns, P. C. Clark.

Sixth. Recognizing and affirming Christian education to be, at this time, and for the immediate future, one of the most vital and far-reaching problems before American Protestantism, and viewing with deep apprehension the critical condition of this phase of our work in many of our Synods, the Assembly directs the Executive Committee to make an earnest and persistent effort to put into effect the comprehensive program outlined on pages 20 and 21 of the Annual Report for 1916, and will be printed in full in Assembly Minutes for this year.

The Assembly, therefore, calls upon Synods and Presbyteries to give earnest attention to the immediate development of their respective educational institutions, so that these may be able to meet the increasing and urgent requirements of the present day.

Inasmuch as many Presbyteries and Synods are now in the midst of campaigns for funds that will enable their institutions to meet the standards fixed by the Assembly, and inasmuch as the year 1917 has also been set by the Assembly for a great forward movement along educational lines, as an appropriate participation in the Luther Celebration of that year, we therefore postpone the date at which the above mentioned standards are to become effective from September, 1916, to September, 1917, and urge a general united and aggressive campaign in all Presbyteries to this end.

Seventh. That Overture No. 19, first clause, concerning the standardizing of our educational institutions, as well as the second clause, requesting a return to the former plan of aiding needy students for the ministry, be answered in the negative.

Eighth. That Overture No. 20, regarding the amount of credit to be allowed ministers, who, while students, were aided by the Executive Committee, be answered in the negative.

Ninth. That Overture No. 21, asking for a change of headings of the columns of the Statistical and Systematic Beneficence Report, be answered in the negative.

Tenth. That Overture No. 22 asking that the amount of the proposed Endowment Fund for Ministerial Relief, be raised to one million dollars, be answered in the affirmative, believing that it should be at least so much.

Eleventh. That Overture No. 48, asking for a semi-annual apportionment of ten cents per member for Christian Education, be answered in the negative.

Twelfth. That the Assembly again call upon the churches, Presbyteries and Synods to unite with the other bodies represented in the Council of the Church Boards of Education in a celebration in 1917, of the four hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, seeking thereby to infuse new life into our own educational institutions and to improve and Christianize, as far as possible, all the educational institutions of our land.

Thirteenth. That the Assembly set apart the last Sunday in February as a day of special prayer for the schools and colleges and the youth gathered in them, and that the preceding Thursday be set apart as a day of prayer to be observed by the Women's Auxiliaries, and that the whole preceding week be observed in our homes as far as possible, in our educational institutions, as a season of special prayer for the outpouring of God's spirit on these institu-

tions, and the youth of our Church, our land and the world.

Fourteenth. That the Assembly express again its interest in the increasing numbers of young men and women in the State institutions of higher learning, and urge upon the Executive Committee to co-operate as much as possible in all discreet efforts for their religious culture.

Fifteenth. That the Assembly express its pleasure at the exceptional success of its Training School for Lay Workers and commend this enterprise to the generosity of our people, and that to this end the Board of Managers be authorized to appeal to the Church for funds for buildings and endowment, provided however, that the four Executive Committees of this Assembly shall first be satisfied that funds and property so acquired, can under the institution's charter, be safeguarded to the Assembly.

Sixteenth. That the Assembly express its hearty appreciation of the work of the Executive Committee, and the Executive Secretary.

Sixteenth. That Rev. F. T. McFaden, D. D., Mr. R. R. Magill, W. B. Lorraine, M. D., Rev. William Megginson, Rev. H. H. Sweets, D. D., Rev. Homer McMillan, D. D., Rev. S. H. Chester, D. D., Rev. J. S. Lyons, D. D., Prof. James Lewis Howe, Rev. Stuart Nye Hutchinson, Rev. W. L. Lingle, D. D., Mr. Robert M. Friend, be elected on the Board of Managers for the ensuing year.

Seventeenth. That the Assembly express its hearty appreciation of the work of the Executive Committee and
W. W. Elwang,
Chairman.

MINISTERIAL RELIEF ENDOWMENT FUND BULLETIN NO. 11.

Henry H. Sweets, Secretary.

Much interest is being manifested in these reports, which appear in the Church papers, concerning the progress we are making in raising the \$136,000 necessary to secure the gift of our liberal elder who promises to give fifty cents for every dollar contributed to the Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief during the year 1916, until he has added \$68,000 to the fund.

The letters which are coming to our office show that those who are deeply interested are watching the reports to see if their contributions have been credited properly. Has your gift been reported? If not we want to urge you, if interested in meeting this generous proposition, to help us AT ONCE by sending your offering—large or small. Remember every thousand dollars given now will add \$1,500 to the fund—every dollar contributed will increase it to the amount of \$1.50. Don't wait for others—others may wait for you.

We are pleased to announce the following contribution since our last report, to May 17th:

Synod of Alabama—Citronelle, First church, \$8.69; Mobile, Government Street, \$5; New Hope, \$7.10; Miss Janie M. Dennis, \$1.05; Mr. W. R.

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